

ABSTRACT

A surgical valve includes a housing with a proximal housing portion and a
5 distal housing portion cooperating to define a gel cavity. A seal material is disposed in
the gel cavity and includes a gel having flow characteristics and incompressible
characteristics. A distal guide tube is provided to facilitate retrograde insertion of a
surgical instrument into the seal material. During assembly, pressure is applied by the
housing portions to the seal material in order to form a circumferential seal and to close
10 an instrument channel. Manufacture can be facilitated by use of a mandrel for
maintaining the structural elements in axial alignment. Complimentary screw threads
disposed between the first and second housing portions can be used to pressurize the
gel and thereby create a locking force on an inserted instrument. Detented tabs can be
provided to facilitate control of this locking force.-